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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and above-mentioned statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic

The declarations by the President of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia of 7 and 2 August 1993 respectively provide clear evidence of the continuing efforts of the Armenian side to mislead the international community with respect to the situation relating to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and its desire to foist on the international community, by turning facts on their head, its own assessment of recent events in the region.

Thus, the statement by the leader of the neighbouring State enunciates the necessity of ensuring "the security of the people of Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh", which completely cancels out the previous assertions by the Armenian leadership that Armenia has no territorial claims on Azerbaijan and points the way to implementation of the decision by the Armenian parliament on 1 December 1989 concerning the joining of Nagorny Karabakh to Armenia, which has to date not been revoked and is by its very nature contrary to international law. At the same time, Mr. Ter-Petrosian justifies the actions of the Republic of Armenia by "the supreme interest of the Armenian people for safety and development", evidently forgetting that the real security interests of any State can only be achieved on the basis of respect for the principles of good neighbourliness and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that the conflict initiated by Armenia has not only not brought prosperity to its people but has deprived them of the normal conditions for development, not to mention the many human sacrifices it has claimed.

Cynically referring to its interest in "the peaceful resolution of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict" and its "adherence to international obligations", the former leader of the "Karabakh" Committee, now President of Armenia, pursues the task of camouflaging the factual flouting by Armenia of universally recognized norms of international law and inter-State relations and diverting attention from the repeated violations of agreements reached within the framework of the CSCE Minsk Group, and of United Nations decisions, by the Republic of Armenia, which continues to seize more and more territory from Azerbaijan. If, in addition to the above, account is taken of the atrocities committed by the Armenian armed units against the Azerbaijani civilian population in the occupied regions, the active provision of military equipment and personnel from the Armenian national army and of mercenaries and the incessant shelling of peaceful settlements in Azerbaijan, the artificiality of utterances about obedience to the letter and spirit of international law is obvious.

Further on in the statement of the President of Armenia there is a condescending reference to welcoming "the Baku-Stepanakert dialogue", although it is no secret to anyone that in fact it is the Republic of Armenia which is a party to the conflict, and its protégé in Nagorny Karabakh serves as a formal cover for the implementation of expansionist Armenian policies. It is in fact from Erevan that the so-called "Government of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic" is

directed, from Armenia that its daughter regime receives military and material assistance and from units of the Armenian national army that the overwhelming majority of the formations carrying out military operations on Azerbaijani territory are drawn. In view of these numerous facts, the Republic of Azerbaijan can only characterize the actions of its neighbour State as open aggression against sovereign Azerbaijan.

As regards the "contacts between representatives of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the NKR", the meeting of military experts which took place recently in the front zone was exclusively of a technical military character, was dictated by the need to ensure the operational implementation of the cease-fire and, despite the desire of the Armenian side, cannot be regarded as a political "Baku-Stepanakert dialogue", for a State recognized by the world community has nothing to negotiate about with a handful of separatists and terrorists. Azerbaijan will not give in to anyone's attempts to conduct a dialogue with it from a position of strength. At the same time, it would be prepared to hear representatives of the Armenian population of Upper Karabakh on condition that they respect the Constitution and laws of Azerbaijan. To counterbalance Armenia's efforts, which are unacceptable from the standpoint of international law, to legitimize the so-called "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" by, in particular, spreading a story about political contacts between the "official authorities of Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh", the Azerbaijani Republic will genuinely strive to create conditions under which it would be possible to reach agreement with the Armenian civilian population of the upper part of Karabakh, who are under strong pressure from the self-styled "Government of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic" and numerous emissaries from Armenia.

The extremely solicitous note introduced by the references to the "difficulties attendant on the peace process" and the "fears of Azerbaijan's political actions not being in conformity with resolutions by international organizations" are also grossly at variance with Armenia's systematic obstructionism in international organizations and with the aggressive actions against Azerbaijan whose effect is to nullify the constant peace efforts of CSCE.

The statement by the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs makes no less apparent the effort by the authorities in Yerevan to conceal the intention of expanding Armenia's territory at the expense of its neighbour. This involves applying the well-tried tactic of paving the way for new seizures of territory through information. In the latest propaganda opus by Armenia's foreign policy department, for example, we find reference to "the military operations undertaken by Azerbaijan against Kapan, Vardenis and Stepanakert". An elementary comparison of the times at which the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia was issued and the offensives by Armenian armed units in the directions of Kazakh and Tauz, as well as the subsequent mass invasions of the territory of the Djebrail and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan, were launched simply confirms the presence of the preliminary information thrust which continues to form part of the arsenal of Armenian diplomacy.

The height of hypocrisy, however, must be seen in the demagogic curtsy of the appeal "to all sides to follow Armenia's example by opening the roads passing through their territories". Presumably the inhabitants of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, which has for more than one year

been squeezed by the blockade, and of the several Azerbaijani districts cut off by the military action in the Fizuli district from the northern part of the Republic are better placed than anyone to express their attitude to such statements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic expresses its outrage at and strongly protests against the attempts by the Armenian authorities, using the political map of separatism, to avoid the responsibility for the events taking place in the region, and expresses the firm hope that the United Nations and the world community as a whole will be able to distinguish truth from falsehood and will proclaim their just verdict on the aggressor.

18 August 1993